AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23 and ending on page 2 line 12 with the following paragraph:

One typical prior art technique for transmitting information involves controlling the amount of ~~power~~ current flowing through a process control loop. Current is supplied from a current source in the control room and the transmitter controls the current from its location in the field. For example, a 4 mA signal can be used to indicate a zero reading and a 20 mA signal can be used to indicate a full scale reading. More recently, transmitters have employed digital circuitry which communicates with the control room using a digital signal which is superimposed onto the analog current signal flowing through the process control loop. One example of such a technique is the HART® communication protocol developed by Rosemount Inc. The HART® protocol and other such protocols typically include a set of commands or instructions which can be sent to the transmitter to elicit a desired response, such as transmitter control or interrogation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 17 and ending on page 17 line 15 with the following paragraph:

Although the present invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, workers skilled in the art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The above description illustrates the invention in one example configuration and any appropriate process control loop may be used such as 4-20 mA, 2, 3, or 4 wire loop, multi-drop loop and a loop operating in accordance with Fieldbus, Profibus, HART® or other communication protocol which transmits process-related information by controlling current flow in a process control loop. The present

invention can be particularly useful in a Safety Instrumented System (SIS) configuration which provides an additional safety layer to a process control loop. The invention can provide a technique of improving the Safety Integrity Level (SIL) rating of a process device. These techniques can be used to convert an undetected failure or potentially unsafe condition into a detected failure which occurs in accordance with a safe condition. Thereby increasing the Safe Failure Fraction (SFF) for process devices used in Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS). The present invention can be used in conjunction with techniques set forth in U.S. Application No. 10/719,163, filed November 21, 2003 and entitled PROCESS DEVICE WITH SUPERVISORY OVERLAYER.